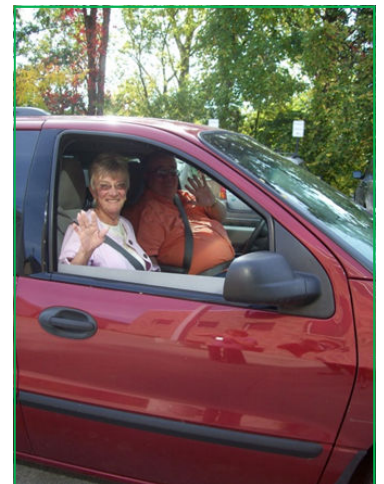




Linda Fawcett, Director  
Lindsey Jordan, Adm. Asst.  
Sue Adkins, Adm. Asst.  
Email: [pcv@grandtraverse.org](mailto:pcv@grandtraverse.org)

## *Season of Giving*

*Thank you to our volunteers for all you have given in 2013!*





## Happy Birthday

### November

Clifford Durga  
Wes Nelson  
Andrea Field  
Roy Bernier  
Frances Butler  
Linda Dittmer  
Shelley Burnes  
Bob Brown  
Sue Paul  
Carla Bloom  
John Nink  
Sam Sarns  
Erica Canfield  
Amanda Atwood  
Ashley Ascione  
Kaitlyn Grangood

### December

Linda Anderson  
Sue Schmidt  
Nancy Reddy  
Gary Hamp  
Donna Burnside  
Nancy Winogrodzki  
Sharon Rosema  
Marla Hoekwater  
Carla Hickman  
Thad Saur  
Laura Alanson  
Sherri Vezina  
Tate Stewart  
Shen Chefalo  
Natalie Terrell  
Trisha Pheasant  
Emily Shaw  
Hilary Hoeflin  
Matt Shumate  
Alex Harvey

### Exciting News!

Probate Volunteers Transportation Program, took ownership of a new transport car. We are the proud new owners of a 1995 Grand Marquis!



Well wishes to volunteer, Jen Carlson. So glad you're feeling better!

### **I.D. Badge Renewal**

If you have yet to make it into the office to have your picture taken for you new I.D. card, give us a call and we can set a time for you to come in. It only takes a few seconds, so stop on in!

922-4827



### **Welcome New**

#### **Probate & Family Court Volunteers**

Sworn in October 10th, 2013, by Judge Stanton were the following new volunteers.

<b>Deb Bloxsom</b>	<b>Katy Ramsdell</b>
<b>Sandra Dwyer</b>	<b>Kelli Ruthkowski</b>
<b>Kaitlyn Grangood</b>	<b>Darcy Schlitt</b>
<b>Alex Harvey</b>	<b>Lee Storch</b>
<b>Lynn Hildebrand</b>	<b>Josh Sullivan</b>
<b>Laura McVey</b>	<b>Lindsey Tholen</b>

Many thanks to Judge Stanton, Amanda Flowers, Probate, Laura Shumate, Learning Partners, Barbara Donaldson, Juvenile Division, Jill Kimball, Lakeview Counseling, and Henry Tenbrink, Bev Saur, and Diana Zapalski, our Citizens in Action Panel. Together they presented an interesting and informative overview of our court, our volunteer services, and how citizen volunteers can make a difference in our community.





Learning Partners are now in full-swing meeting with students. We have a few new Learning Partner Volunteers on board: Welcome! Also, we have a few students waiting for help. In particular, we have a need for Volunteers willing to drive to the Fife Lake/Kingsley area. Please contact Laura if you are interested!

We will continue with our regular Learning Partner meetings on the first Tuesday of the month: November 5th and December 3rd. As wintery weather approaches, remember to check school closings and your own road conditions. It is always a good idea to call ahead and make sure your student is in attendance; we have already had several absences due to illnesses. Learning Partners are hoping to attend a musical performance in December, followed by ice skating for students, their families, and volunteers in January. Stay tuned!

### **Attention: 4th Annual Traverse City Book Festival**

Saturday, November 9th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

City Opera House, Traverse City

Come out for free crafts and activities! Meet great new authors and stock up your library or do some holiday shopping!



This is a FREE event, invite your friends, tell your LP families and help spread the word!

### **Attention all CASA volunteers:**

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, 4 p.m., we'll meet in the lobby of the Grand Traverse County Jail, for an update on operations and visitation protocols. Sgt. Todd Ritter, will be our guide.

Please RSVP so that we know you are coming, and so that the jail has an idea of how they might best accommodate us. Many of our CASA kids have parents who are incarcerated. Depending on the case, a visit to them in the jail may be helpful.

2014 CASA Training dates are being scheduled. Tell your friends or ask them to call us directly for more information. Classes will begin Mon., March 3, 2014.

It's not too late to make the Michigan CASA conference Nov. 8th and 9th. Please let us know if you plan on attending. Registration and lodging information have been previously provided. Thank You!

Program for the CASA December monthly meeting is being planned. We'll be in touch.

**Many thanks to all those who donated to our CASA conference raffle basket. It turned out beautiful!**





# Truancy Program

Truancy facilitators, experienced and new, gathered on Oct. 3rd to sort through the curriculum and sign up to meet with youth and parents for seven, 4 hour sessions, beginning Nov. 14th, 2013.

Mission statement of this program states: "Recognizing that lack of school attendance presents barriers to student success, the mission of the "School is Important" program, is to provide information and support to parents and youth with school attendance issues to remove those barriers and to prevent court involvement.



Students in middle and high school and parents of elementary school aged children, along with middle and high school parents, attend this important program. In the past, 86% of the students attending have avoided repeat absences and thus avoided a court record. Many thanks to those volunteer facilitators listed below. Special thanks to Roy Bernier, retired teacher, principal, and curriculum specialist.

## Facilitators

**Bob Brown**

**Erica Canfield**

**Shen Chefalo**

**Gayenell Gentelia**

**Kaitlyn Grangood**

**Barb Grewe**

**Lisa Hoffman**

**Don Kuelhorn**

**Dave Speirs**

**Dave Speirs**

**Tate Stewart**

**Lindsey Tholen**

*All of us from the Probate and Family Court  
Volunteer Services Office **thank you** for your  
dedication and commitment to our programs  
and our community!*

*We could **NOT** do it without **YOU!***

*Lindsey, Linda, Laura, Sue*

*We wish you and your family a very*

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***



# GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council has had an active fall. Partnering with Plante Moran employees, we held our outreach event which was enjoyable. GTALC just concluded its fall tutor training with 8 tutors graduating. GTALC's entire Board met with Judge Stanton to review the final version of procedures for referral from the court to GTALC. For the third year, GTALC will be participating in the Traverse City Children's Book Festival which will be held on November 9th, 2013, at the City Opera House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Children's Book Festival celebrates children, families, community and of course, literacy. Proceeds from the festival benefit GTALC and Read Aloud.

Our annual giving campaign will be kicked off with a mailing to all those interested in literacy and our organizations' support of same.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Thompson, President  
Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council

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## **Anti-Bullying Conference 2013**

On October 25th, all staff from Volunteer Services attended the 2013 'Anti-Bullying Conference' at the Hagerty Center. This conference is the culmination of months long preparation by the 'Anti-Bullying Task Force' of Northern Michigan, of which Probate Volunteer Services is a member.

During the conference, we were able to obtain resources available to youth in our community on how to deal with and/or prevent bullying behavior, as well as, tips and information for adults on the warning signs of when a youth is being bullied. Many thanks to Lindsey Jordan, from our office who participated in this effort.





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
 MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE  
 280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684  
 231-922-4827

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\*All meeting are held at the Volunteer Services office  
 unless otherwise mentioned.

### **Learning Partners**

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

**Tuesday, Nov. 5th, 2013**

**Tuesday, Dec. 3rd, 2013**



### **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

**Tuesday, Nov. 19th, 2013**

**Tuesday, Dec. 17th, 2013**



### **Literacy Council**

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm  
 Traverse Area District Library

**Wednesday, Nov. 20th, 2013**

**Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 2013**



**Attention:** 2013 is drawing to a close and we would like to ask volunteers, how you think we are doing.



For those who receive the newsletter via email, you've received a copy of the survey. If you get a paper copy of the newsletter, let us know if you would like a survey and we can either email or mail one to you.

Please take a moment, and let us know your thoughts.

For any questions, give us a call, 922-4827.

**Thank You!**